

# The Crittenden Press.

VOLUME 24.

MARION, CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, JANUARY 29, 1903.

NUMBER 34

## 1800 MEN EMPLOYED ON THE NEW RAILROAD.

Nearly Five Thousand Tons of Track Material on The Way!

Our Zinc Ore Production of 1902—Solid Ore Widens on the Memphis to Three Feet—The Joplin Market Last Week Strong and Active.

### NEWS AND GOSSIP FROM THE FIELD.

Eighteen hundred men are employed on the Clarksville division of the Tennessee Central railroad. Tracklaying commenced at Black creek, eleven miles north of Nashville, on Monday of last week. Forty-five hundred tons of steel rails and other track material are en route for the Clarksville and Hopkinsville division. This portion of the St. Louis-Nashville Shortline will, it is thought, be completed by June 1; at any rate great efforts will be made to do this and secure the subsidy of near a million of dollars, which otherwise would be forfeited. The Illinois Central's tracks will be utilized between Hopkinsville and Marion, 55 miles. At Marion the Crittenden Springs survey will be adopted and a direct push made toward St. Louis via Cave-in-Rock to Eldorado, where the new road will meet the St. Louis route. This cut off, or rather this air line will shorten the distance between Nashville and St. Louis over 70 miles, and save several hours time between the two cities. It will also add immensely to our local interests. Branching off some distance south of the Kentucky Fluor Spar property, the line will run on an easy, natural grade to Crittenden Springs, giving superb facilities to the Old Jim, the Columbia the Memphis, and other mines to move their products at much less expense than is now done. It will make the Crittenden Springs hotel a greater favorite with summer resorters than ever before, while the new depot and grounds, a couple of hundred feet from the southeast corner of the new Reed addition to the city will be the center of many new enterprises and manufacturing interests.

It is very probable that the casual reader did not fully digest the very complete and most remarkable statement of the Old Jim mine which was so kindly furnished the Press by Blue & Nunn last week. It is a most remarkable statement in every respect—clear, comprehensive, and tells the story of the year's work in a little open cut 200 yards long, sixty feet wide and thirty feet deep in a language that is couched in figures, to be sure, but in figures that bristle with suggestions of the enormously rich mining territory that is under our feet, here in Crittenden county, Kentucky.

In a very matter of fact way, Messrs Blue & Nunn tell us that the total tonnage of the zinc ore shipped was 7,543,085 pounds, and that it was sold for \$50,973.20, an average of \$13.51 per ton. They also say that of the total amount of material excavated and raised to the surface from this open cut 67.1 per cent. was shipping ore and 32.9 per cent. was waste. We doubt that such a showing can be duplicated in any other camp in the world. When one can ex-

pose such a great body of material and have it yield 67 per cent. in money value, we simply take off our hats to the owners, Messrs. Blue & Nunn, and to the splendid management of their superintendent, Mr. William C. Uren, whose long mining experience has made such an achievement possible.

The value of the output of the Joplin district for last week was \$180,959, which was \$29,767 larger than the corresponding week of last year, and \$31,960 larger than the preceding week.

The highest price reported paid for zinc was \$37 per ton, and there was no falling off in the market, as predicted by some, because the Kansas smelters received an importation of zinc ore from British Columbia. On the contrary, the Joplin market was stronger than the preceding week.

The assay basis price for the better grades of ore purchased during the week past was \$34 per ton for ore assaying 60 per cent. zinc. The outlook in the district for the ensuing year is exceptionally bright, and it is believed that the year 1903 will exceed the ten million dollar mark.

The lead market continues strong and active, with the ore in good demand at \$51 per ton. A year ago zinc brought \$29.50 and lead \$42 per ton.

The year 1902 outranked every previous year in values except the boom year of 1899.

The Marion Mineral company, of which an occasional mention has been made in these columns, was in its original organization composed entirely of our local people. It has from its inception been fathered and mothered by Mr. R. C. Walker, of Marion, and so well has this double parentage been performed that its shares, which at the time of the company's incorporation were placed at the nominal figure of five cents on the dollar, are today held firmly at seventy dollars per share, the par value being one hundred dollars. Judge L. H. James, the President of the company, is not a mining man in the generally accepted sense of the term, yet his counsels, wise and conservative as they have proven themselves to be, have added largely to the well earned success of what may be termed a model organization. The accession of Messrs. O. L. Bass, of Pensacola, Florida, and R. E. Cooper, of Hopkinsville, Ky., the one practically controlling the turpentine interests of the world and the other a tobacco buyer and exporter handling a business of great magnitude with many of the European countries, gave the company an outside status that it probably would not have had otherwise. A number of purchases of mineral lands in fee simple have been made, and these lands are

fast being transformed into mines both in Crittenden county and across the river in Illinois. Such good judgment has been exercised in selecting their properties that the yield of ore at this time, scarcely a year from the organization of the company, is of a very considerable tonnage. Messrs. John Clark and Fred Clement, the two lieutenants of Mr. Walker, have shown their ability in prospecting and mining the company's lands in a way that has earned them the title of the "lucky two," although constant hard work, with the exercise of good mining sense has caused all of what we ordinarily term luck.

We are very glad to note the progress of such a company, based, as it is, upon the sterling worth not only of its property, but of its officials as well as the men "behind the guns."

In commenting upon prospecting and its methods in this column last week the writer said that without some indication of ores or vein matter it was not good judgment in a mining sense to commence sinking a shaft. That a well posted mining man must have some indications of an ore body before commencing any regular mining work. Of course such indications vary in different countries, and in different portions of the same country. With us the apex of the vein asserts itself at or somewhere near the surface in its course across the country.

Exceptions were taken to this statement by one of our most enterprising citizens, who good naturedly cited the fact that the Lucile working shaft was not commenced on any ore indications, also mentioning the Felix Cox shaft being sunk by Mr. Hewlett's superintendent.

The gentleman will remember that the prospect work on the Lucile followed the vein in its dips and angles for the 140 feet or more that the working shaft's position was based entirely on this dip and located far enough away to cut the vein in 75 feet, that this dip being more acute than appeared it required 90 feet to reach it. This is a straight mathematical proposition which is followed in every mining camp in the world where fissure veins prevail. Practically the same state of affairs obtained at the Cox place. Mr. Cox's little son uncovered a strata of galena in the dooryard. Prospecting to a limited extent was made and the location and direction was found. In the first prospect shaft it was found that the vein dipped out of the shaft. It was thought to be less expensive to go some distance from the vein on the surface and sink a second prospect shaft that would cut the vein of ore at thirty feet depth. This was done, and of course successfully. It would not have been good mining to have started these two shafts even in the same positions with no indications of an ore body. Of course had that been done the ore would have been found as it is today, but what possible reason would there have been for doing that work in that special place. Mining at best is uncertain; let us place all the safeguards around it that experience has proven wise.

The big 8x16 shaft on the Lucile Mining company's property, near the old depot in Marion, has at 90 feet depth comesquarely upon their massive vein of fluor spar. This shaft was designed to strike the dip of the vein at 75 feet. A more acute angle was the probable course of the fifteen extra feet being a necessity. While many of us considered the shaft as being larger than necessary for the

purpose of mining, later events has shown its wisdom, inasmuch as fluor spar and the zinc and lead ores can be mined and practically separated in the large area excavated.

This Lucile vein of lead and zinc ores and fluor spar, is one of the three great veins that underlie the 123 acres of the new Reed addition to Marion, from the Princeton road to the creek, fully three quarters of a mile in length. The development of this vein at the Lucile shaft has proven beyond doubt that the mining interests on this Reed addition, were no other veins accessible, would be worth thousands upon thousands of dollars for its ore alone. It also shows that the value of the Reed mining stock is very apt to have a big jump in values as soon as mining commences.

One or two of our friends have questioned the propriety of the Press calling attention to the mineral interests of our sister State of Illinois, which are located just across the Ohio river, fifteen to twenty miles west of Marion. This puts us in mind of the story of the railroad employee who on Saturday night asked his superintendent for a pass to his home up the road, twenty or thirty miles. The official in declining the request told him that he received his pay regularly, and that if he worked on a farm he wouldn't expect the farmer to hitch up his team and take him home every Saturday night without paying him for it.

"No," says the employee, "I wouldn't; but if he had his team already hitched up, and was going by where I lived, I should call him a pretty small affair if he wouldn't let me ride." Well, of course the boy got his pass, and the application is that we are already hitched up and have room for not only our own remarkable section but for the whole of the Sucker State, if they have anything over there that's "any good."

When Prof. Ulrich was over in "The Center" some weeks ago he obtained a rare fossil, which he says came from the original bed of the Cumberland river; and he added that the river then flowed but a very short distance from where he then stood, and it was not so very long ago, either. Being asked how many years had elapsed, he said that he figured it at eleven million, but other geologists made it more. That's not so very long, of course; 11,000,000 years is just a hop, skip and jump. We were down at Flat Lick one summer in the geology business, and that summer was more than eighty-seven billion years long; so perhaps the professor's mathematics are correct.

The last section of the new White River railroad, which enters the Arkansas zinc fields, has been permanently located by the engineers. The route definitely decided upon is by way of Turkey Creek and Omaha, Ark. The great amount of heavy labor to be performed in the shape of trestles and deep cuts in Taney county will necessitate the expenditure of fully a million dollars for labor south of White river. There will be lively times and much money turned loose in this county during the next two years.

The initial statement of the Salem Bank, published a few days ago, shows a financial status that reflects great credit upon its officials. Mr. Roy Threlkeld, one of the youngest cashiers in the state, is to be congratulated upon having made such a record in so short a time.

## The Reed Lots

—AND—

### \$1000 IN MINING STOCK!

An office has been opened first door East of the Marion Bank for those desiring to secure Lots and Shares in this great property.

### The Present Price of \$50

For one of the 50x150 lots with 1000 shares of mining stock will be advanced early in February. Application should be made as early as possible.

D. C. ROBERTS, Marion, Ky.

The Mineral Point Zinc company's Memphis shaft, at 140 feet, has widened out to 7 feet of vein matter, with fully three feet of a high grade pay streak of zinc and lead ores. This deep prospecting on known veins of fluor spar has so far resulted in wonderfully strong bodies of zinc and lead. It will be remembered that the fluor spar on the Memphis practically ceased at about 125 feet, and but a small sprinkling of zinc blende was apparent at that point. From this knife blade of ore to a heavy, solid, substantial ore body of 3 feet in 15 or 20 feet greater depth, simply confirms and makes good the prophecy made that this district is one of the richest fields known, in lead and zinc ores carried in fissure veins.

Several weeks have elapsed since we have had the pleasure of perusing the Kentucky Miner. It isn't possible, is it, that it has fallen into one of those 500 foot shafts that are being dug so recklessly all over the "center" of the mineral field. We hope it wasn't on that barge that was loaded with 500 tons of fluor spar, that went down in the Cumberland river a while ago. Still it is a mystery where it has gone. There has been no stage hold up that we have heard of between the office of the Miner and the Press. And yet the fact remains that the Miner hasn't shown up. Where is Sherlock Holmes?

An injunction has been issued against the McWade company to stop them from working the Collins mine on Lead Hill, Illinois. The Cleveland Mineral company claims to own the property.

We don't want to get people in the habit of doing anything to day that they can possibly put off until tomorrow, but those Reed lots are getting a move on themselves, and somebody is going to miss getting one without they step a little livelier toward the Press office, where the plat of the entire property can be seen and the lots selected.

President Roosevelt will shortly send a message to the Congress proposing that the United States enter into an arrangement with five other countries for the creation of a uniform and international currency system for silver using countries on a gold basis. The movement had its initiative in Mexico.

It is understood that the 1903 output of the Old Jim mine has been contracted to the Mineral Point Zinc company, at a price largely in excess of any previous sales for carbonate of zinc ores in this district.

An extraordinary rich silver strike has been made in the Bimetallic mine in Western Montana. The property is controlled by St. Louis people. The ore on the 1700 foot level assays over one half silver, the regular shipping product carries 1500 ounces to the ton.

The Cumberland Courier says that the "Epsom Salts" mine near Golconda, Ill., will shortly commence "working." We supposed that was Epsom salts' principal business.

More lithograph stone finds are reported over the river. This stone so far is better adapted for building purposes than for use on a printing press.

Work is progressing favorably on the Pell mine in the Golconda district. At 100 feet depth the pay streak of lead and zinc ore is 2 feet wide.

Work on the Mogul prospect on Henry Hodge's land, under the management of J. P. Pierce, will, it is said, commence Feb. 1st.

Rhode Island is the only one of the New England States which has a Democratic governor. The other state officers are Republicans.

**THE OLD RELIABLE**



**ROYAL**  
**BAKING**  
**POWDER**  
Absolutely Pure  
**THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE**